

## Young People's Societies

### THE WAR-CURSE.

Topic for Sunday, August 8: Why War Should be Abolished. Isaiah 2:2-4; Matthew 5:38-48.

#### DAILY READINGS.

Monday: The devastation of war. Joel 1:13-20.

Tuesday: The curse of war. Leviticus 26:17, 31-39.

Wednesday: God is against war. Psalm 46:8-11.

Thursday: The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:5-7.

Friday: God's benignant reign. Isaiah 11:1-10.

Saturday: War inspired from beneath. Revelation 9:1-21.

War is of man. Peace is of God. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace."

"Have peace with one another." The injunction to the individual is just as binding upon the body of which he forms a part.

"And be at peace among yourselves." The development of the highest character depends upon such mutual agreement as unity produces.

"He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many peoples." God will judge the nations no less than individuals. Because it is a body it is no less responsible.

"Neither shall they learn war any more." The time is coming when by God's grace the Prince of Peace shall have universal power and his benign reign shall end the struggles of man.

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you, that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."

By loving our enemies we shall soon have no enemies. It always takes two to make a fight. Eliminate one of the two, yourself, from anger and recrimination and the other will have to go soon.

Non-resistance in certain cases does not imply lack of character or principle. It is even better for principle and character sometimes. One's end is gained the sooner by wisdom and prudence than by fighting for it.

That the world is making progress, under enlightened Christian civilization's influence, in the direction of a peaceful solution of its problems is clearly manifest in the Peace Congresses, International Arbitration Courts, and like recent developments.

It is alleged that the continual preparation for war is an invitation to it and a menace to peace. Perhaps the readiness is a practical preventive of conflict. We may at least hope that it is so. If so its expense is after all a great economy.

A modern battle-ship is said to cost more than the complete equipment and endowment of a first class college, and its life is not now regarded as more than twenty years, as against the hundreds through which the college will be doing its beneficent work.

The old time resort to arms, and to use of the so-called "honor code" has happily almost entirely passed away. It may presage the fall of the "honor code" as between nations. There was never an "institution" more utterly absurd and puerile, and thinking people everywhere rejoice that it has fallen into deserved disgrace.

"More soluble is this knot,

Like all the rest, if men were wise,

By gentleness than by war."—Tennyson.

It is not the sight of our sinful heart that humbles us; it is the sight of Jesus Christ. "I am undone, for mine eyes have seen the King."—Andrew Bonar.

No man can be wholly uneducated who really knows the Bible, nor can any one be considered a truly educated man who is ignorant of it.—President Schurman.

The stalwart Christian is he who has met and triumphed over temptation.

## Prayer Meeting

### HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Week Beginning August 1.

The Mission Topic assigned for this month in the Home field is "Miners and Mill People." In the South this department of work has vastly increased in magnitude in recent years. The cotton mill industry has assumed immense proportions in certain of our Southern States which are destined to speedily become the leading cotton manufacturing center of the world. Numerous towns have developed new growth and activity under the stimulus of extensive mills. In these mills are hundreds and thousands of employees whose spiritual needs must be provided for. The work appeals to the interest and liberality of the church. Iron and wood-working industries are now supporting an immense population thus increasing largely the classes who appeal to our missionary sympathy and zeal.

The Southland is stored with vast mineral deposits, especially of coal and iron. Capital is developing mines in these hitherto neglected regions where many thousands of people, mainly of foreign birth and speaking a foreign language, are now employed. This population is in need of Christian schools and churches and in many cases requiring foreign born evangelists. The opportunity is before us to give to these people a pure gospel which in many cases they carry back to their native land and teach to their friends and neighbors there. The harvest is great; let us aid in thrusting forth laborers into these fields.

Our topic for the foreign field is "Greece and Papal Europe," our space only admits of an extract from the "Record of Christian Work," concerning the New Austrian Reformation in the progress of which during recent years about 60,000 Romanists have embraced the Protestant faith. Says the writer:

"The unfair treatment of Protestants by the Austrian State is strikingly illustrated by its attitude to the German pastors who are called to take positions in Austrian Protestant parishes. These parishes have an entirely legal right to call foreign pastors. Indeed, they are compelled thereto because of the small number of Austrian theological students. Yet every difficulty is thrown in their way. Romish priests from Germany are immediately confirmed by the government and naturalized. The numerous seminarists who come from the Rhineland into Austria are immediately accepted into Austrian schools. But Protestant pastors are obliged to wait years for their rights and often in vain and while they are waiting they are forbidden to give religious instruction or to perform the functions of the ministry. They are watched narrowly and any infringement of the regulations, however slight, is a sufficient cause for sending them across the boundary. The colportage law and the law of associations are the brooms used to sweep them out of the country. And even these are not enough. Prince Lichtenstein, a worthy scion of the house whose dragons were the terror of Christians and the delight of the Jesuits in the seventeenth century, has recently declared that 'the land of Austria must be clean swept with an iron broom.' The plan of depriving churches of their pastors in the hope that the churches will get discouraged and disband is carried to extreme lengths. Thus a short time since four Germans who had entered Austria to study the evangelical movement were expelled. A giving away of sermons or other religious matter is punishable with fines. The writer met two years ago a Bohemian working man converted to Christianity from Romanism who was preparing to go to Detroit 'because he heard that there one could distribute tracts without interference from the police.' Truly a refreshing type of immigrant!

"Yet in spite of persecution the reformation steadily goes on. Evangelical preaching is heard in 300 more places than in 1898. Over 100 new churches with pastors are in existence. The number of children unable to get Protestant school instruction constantly diminishes. Evangelical Christians, formerly cowed in silence, now boldly confess their faith. Catholic Austria is learning to know and understand Protestantism and is full of esteem for it and its representatives. An